THE
WASHINGTON
INSTITUTE

March 15, 1991

Mr. R. F. Gertenbach
President
Council for Tobacco Research
900 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Mr. Gertenbach,

Arsenic is found in tobacco mostly from its former use in the tobacco fields. It is a human carcinogen with the highly unusual regulatory distinction of having a traditional drinking water standard to this day.

The mechanism of carcinogenic action of this otherwise widely distributed chemical is now vigorously studied and I would like to make a further contribution by studying the interaction in human cancer between arsenic and Human Papilloma Virus. The study would involve a collaboration with dermatologists in North Carolina and Taiwan and with a human virologist in Germany. About 250 arsenical cancers in North Carolina and the survivors of about 8 000 similar cancers in Taiwan are the only subjects alive for the study apart from five old vintners in Germany. Arsenical cancers in those five vintners already contain oncogenic strains of HPV and the study is therefore likely to yield a positive and important result.

I would like to gauge your interest in supporting this collaboration as a part of the Washington Institute's Chemical Risk Program which aims to affirm practical and scientifically sound environmental standards. May I give you a call next week to see whether a more detailed proposal is in order?

Sincerely

Gerhard Stöhrer
Director, Chemical Risk Project

The Washington Institute
for Values in Public Policy

Suite 300
1015 18th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Telephone (202) 293-7440
Fax (202) 293-9393
Telex 220759 ICF UR

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/hspb0000